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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Deputy Director for Operations

FROM:

William F. Donnelly

Chief, Information Management Staff

SUBJECT:

Request for Approval to Transfer Certain

OSS Records to the National Archives

- 1. The approval of the Deputy Director for Operations is requested to transfer the permanently valuable historical records of OSS to the National Archives (NARS). NARS will, with certain restrictions, make the information available for research by the general public.
- 2. The records to be transferred are part of an overall total of 5833 cubic feet of OSS records held by the Directorate of Operations. Colonel Raymond Tagge, an official of the NARS Historical Office has, over the past six months, appraised the OSS collection. He has designated 2600 feet of those records as having permanent historical value. Other NARS reviewing officials have confirmed Col. Tagge's appraisal and have expressed NARS interest in acquiring those records now. The other approximately 3233 cubic feet of records is only of temporary value and will be retained and eventually destroyed by the Directorate.
- 3. A team of retired DO officers, working as independent contractors, has been reviewing the 2600 feet of permanent OSS records for declassification in accordance with the requirements of Executive Order 12065. The team has maintained the classification of information revealing the identities of intelligence sources and agents including liaison relationships, except as noted below. Documents with such information have been withdrawn from the records being prepared for transfer to NARS and will be held by the Agency.

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- 4. Identity information on three categories of sources and agents has not been withdrawn. Those categories are:
  - a. French intelligence agents operating against the German occupying forces in France during World War II. That information has been generally publicized in France by the French themselves.
  - b. Special Operations agents (guerrilla forces) who fought occupying forces in their own countries. These guerrilla teams were not intelligence agents in the classical sense.
  - c. Persons interviewed by the OSS Foreign Nationalities Branch in New York City. The interviews were entirely overt, the information obtained concerned foreign countries of interest to OSS or the activities of foreign ethnic groups in the United States. The persons interviewed were however generally U.S. persons and any release of information concerning them and those U.S. citizens and organizations on STAT which they reported are subject to the provisions of the Privacy Act.
- 5. The team has left foreign government information and other U.S. agency information in the records to be transferred to NARS. That information has been tabbed and its release is dependent upon NARS obtaining the permission of the foreign government or U.S. agency concerned.
- 6. If the transfer of records is approved, it is anticipated that it will take place in increments. The first increment of 198 cubic feet is now ready for transfer. A sampling of materials from that increment is on display in Room 1 D 23 and is available for your review should you desire. NARS may, in accepting the first shipment of OSS records, wish to hold a public ceremony announcing the acquisition. In anticipation of that possibility, the Information Assistant to the DDA has alerted the Agency's Public Affairs Officer who has indicated that the Director may wish to participate.

Affairs Officer who has indicated participate.			
	William	F. Donnelly	
APPROVED:			
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	26 JUL 1979		
Deputy Director for Operations	Date		
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